

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

CLAIMS

1. (original) An extensible beam comprising:
a first, elongate, element;
a second element adapted to move relative to the first elongate element in order to vary the amount of overlap between the first and second elements and thereby vary the length of the beam;
wherein the first element includes first and second support portions;
and
the second element includes first and second spaced apart strut members for engagement with the first and second support portions respectively.
2. (original) An extensible beam as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first element has an upper portion which, in use, provides a surface to support materials above the beam, and first and second lateral portions depending from the upper portion.
3. (original) An extensible beam as claimed in claim 2, wherein the first element comprises an elongate member with a shape which defines a channel with generally rectangular cross-section extending through the member.
4. (currently amended) An extensible beam as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 3, wherein the first element comprises a length of metal C-section.
5. (currently amended) An extensible beam as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 2, wherein the first and second strut members comprise respective bars which have substantially greater thickness than the lateral portions of the first element.
6. (original) An extensible beam as claimed in claim 5, wherein the bars are solid bars.
7. (deleted)

8. (currently amended) An extensible beam as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein in use, with the beam in a horizontal orientation, the vertical height of each strut member is greater than its thickness.
9. (currently amended) An extensible beam as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 2, wherein in use, with the beam in a horizontal orientation, the height of each strut member is smaller than the height of the lateral portions of the first element.
10. (currently amended) An extensible beam as claimed in claim 9, wherein[,] the height of each strut member is less than 80% of the height of the lateral portions of the first element.
11. (deleted)
12. (deleted)
13. (currently amended) An extensible beam as claimed in claim [12] 1, wherein a first cross member extends between respective first ends of the first and second strut members and a second cross member extends between respective second ends of the first and second strut members.
14. (deleted)
15. (currently amended) An extensible beam as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein the first and second support portions are adapted to slidably engage the respective first and second strut members.
16. (currently amended) An extensible beam as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein the second element is located at least partially inside the first element and is adapted, in use, to be moved further into the first element in order to reduce the length of the beam, and to be moved further out of the first element in order to increase the length of the beam, and wherein in the extended configuration less than half of the second element can extend out of the first element.
17. (deleted)
18. (currently amended) An extensible beam as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein the second element further comprises a web portion extending between the first and second strut members, the web portion being adapted to prevent parts of a user from being caught within the beam during use.
- 19-21. (deleted)
22. (currently amended) An extensible beam as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 2, wherein the first and second support portions are coupled to, and supported by, the respective first and second lateral portions.
23. (deleted)
24. (currently amended) An extensible beam as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 16, wherein in use, the relative positions of the first and second elements are constrained so that substantially the entire length of each support portion is in contact

with, or closely adjacent to, a part of the corresponding strut member, irrespective of whether the second element is retracted or extended relative to the first element.

25. (currently amended) An extensible beam as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein a first abutment portion of the second element is adapted to engage part of the first element to restrict axial movement of the second element away from the first element.

26-33. (deleted)

34. (currently amended) An extensible beam as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 2, wherein in use, the strut members are spaced apart from the lateral portions by one or more parts of members which form the support portions.

35. (deleted)

36. (currently amended) An extensible beam as claimed in claim 16 ~~or any subsequent claim when dependent thereon~~, wherein the second element is dimensioned so that a degree of lateral movement within the first element is possible.

37. (deleted)

38. (deleted)

39. (currently amended) An extensible beam as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 37~~ claim 1, wherein one, or both, of the first and second elements is made substantially from aluminium.

40. (original) An extensible beam comprising:

(a) a first elongate element comprising:

a top panel, for supporting building materials thereon; opposing side panels which in use project generally perpendicular from opposing sides of the top panel so that the top panel and side panels form three sides of the first element which is generally rectangular in radial cross section; and first and second support portions projecting inwardly from respective inner surfaces of the respective first and second side panels; and

(b) a second element adapted to move relative to the first elongate element in order to vary the amount of overlap between the first and second elements and thereby vary the length of the beam, the second element comprising first and second generally parallel spaced apart strut members connected by at least one cross member;

whereby the first and second strut members are supported by the respective first and second support portions and able to slide relative thereto in order to provide relative axial movement of the second element relative to the first element.

41. (currently amended) An extensible beam as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein the extensible beam is a reusable extensible lintel.